

THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system supporting the exchange of media in a communication network, the system comprising:

a first television display, at a first home, to support the consumption of media comprising audio and/or video;

at least one first media peripheral, at the first home, for the production of media comprising audio and/or video;

a first storage, at the first home, for storing media comprising audio and/or video, the first storage communicatively coupled to the first television display;

a first set top box circuitry, at the first home, communicatively coupling the first television display and the at least one first media peripheral to the communication network, the first set top box circuitry having a first network address associated with a first user;

a graphical user interface, at the first home, having at least one view comprising a graphical representation of at least one user defined media channel for the communication of media comprising audio and/or video, the at least one user defined media channel comprising a graphical representation of a user selected and scheduled sequence of media content comprising audio and/or video, the graphical user interface operable to allow a user to immediately establish and/or to schedule automatic establishment of one or more streaming media sessions;

a second television display, at a second home, to support the consumption of media comprising audio and/or video;

a second set top box circuitry, at the second home, communicatively coupling the second television display to the communication network, the second set top box circuitry having a second network address associated with a second user; and

~~server~~ first software that maintains a user defined group of users comprising the first and second users, wherein the user defined group of users is closed and secure with respect to others that are not members of the user defined group of users, wherein a member within the user defined group of users can privately share media content comprising audio and/or video with one or more other members within the user defined group of users, wherein the ~~server~~ first software receives a request identifying one of the associated first and second network addresses, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network addresses to support transmission of the media content comprising audio and/or video from the at least one first media peripheral to the second television display for consumption in a real time manner; and

second software resident in a first memory at the first home configured to enable a user at the first home to construct, at the first home, the at least one user defined media channel, the second software also configured to enable closed and secure communication of the at least one user defined media channel to other members within the user defined group of users that are at separate and distinct locations from the first home, in a peer-to-peer manner, from the first home.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises one or more of a still image and/or data.

3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing digitized audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the associated first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, or an electronic serial number (ESN).

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one first media peripheral comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a video camera, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, a microphone, and/or a MP3 player.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising: at least one second media peripheral, at the second home, for the production of media wherein the server software supports exchange of the media from the at least one second media peripheral to the first television display for consumption in a real time manner.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the at least one second media peripheral comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a video camera, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, a microphone, and/or a MP3 player.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the exchange of the media from the at least one first media peripheral to the second television display, and the exchange of the media from the at least one second media peripheral to the first television display occur concurrently.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising: at least one sensor for detecting a condition, at the first home; and the detection of the condition causing the initiation of a request to exchange media with the second home.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the at least one sensor comprises one or more of a door bell button, a passive infrared (PIR) motion detector, a microwave motion detector, a swimming pool water disturbance detector, a smoke detector, a fire detector, and/or other sensor suitable for the detection of conditions about a home.

13. (Currently amended) A system supporting the exchange of media in a communication network, the system comprising:

at least one media peripheral, at a first home, for the production of media comprising audio and/or video;

a first set top box circuitry, at the first home, communicatively coupling the at least one media peripheral to the communication network, the first set top box circuitry having a first network address associated with a first user;

a television display, at a second home, for the consumption of media comprising audio and/or video;

a second set top box circuitry, at the second home, communicatively coupling the television display to the communication network, the second set top box circuitry having a second network address associated with a second user;

a graphical user interface, at the second home, having at least one view comprising a graphical representation of at least one user defined media channel for the communication of media comprising audio and/or video, the at least one user defined media channel comprising a graphical representation of a user selected and scheduled sequence of media content comprising audio and/or video, the graphical user interface operable to allow a user to immediately establish and/or schedule automatic establishment of one or more streaming media sessions; and

~~server~~ first software that maintains a user defined group of users having members comprising the first and second users, wherein the user defined group of users is closed and secure with respect to others that are not members of the user defined group of users, wherein a member within the user defined group of users can privately share media content comprising audio and/or video with one or more other members within the user defined group of users,

wherein the ~~server~~ first software receives a request, and responds by coordinating a transmission of media comprising audio and/or video from the at least one media peripheral to the second television display for consumption in a real time manner; and

second software resident in a memory at the second home configured to enable a user at the second home to construct, at the second home, the at least one user defined media channel, the second software also configured to enable closed and secure communication of the at least one user defined media channel to other members within the user defined group of users that are at separate and distinct locations from the second home, in a peer-to-peer manner, from the second home.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the media comprises one or more of a still image and/or data.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a video camera, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, a microphone, and/or a MP3 player.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing digitized audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

18. (Original) The system of claim 13 further comprising: at least one sensor for detecting a condition, at the first home; and the detection of the condition causing the initiation of a request to exchange media with the second home.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the at least one sensor comprises one or more of a door bell button, a passive infrared (PIR) motion detector, a microwave motion detector, a swimming pool water disturbance detector, a smoke detector, a fire detector, and/or other sensor suitable for the detection of conditions about a home.

20. (Currently amended) A method of supporting the exchange of media in a communication network, the method comprising:

establishing a user defined group of users having a plurality of members, wherein the user defined group of users is closed and secure with respect to others that are not members of the user defined group of users, wherein a member within the user defined group of users can privately share media content comprising audio and/or video with one or more other members within the user defined group of users;

maintaining a user defined association of a first network address with respect to a first location and a second network address with respect to a second location;

receiving input from a user, at the first location, wherein said receiving input comprises immediately establishing one or more streaming media session and/or automatically establishing one or more streaming media sessions;

transmitting a request to transmit media comprising audio and/or video, to the second location, via the communication network;

authenticating the first location to the second location;

receiving an acceptance from the second location; ~~and~~

transmitting media comprising audio and/or video in a real time manner, via the communication network, between the first location and the second location;

constructing, at the first location, one or more media channels from user selected and scheduled media content; and

communicating in a peer-to-peer manner the one or more media channels from the first location to the second location, via a closed and secure communication.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the media comprises one or more of a still image and/or data.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the user input is received via a user interface having at least one view comprising a representation of at least one user defined media channel for the exchange of media.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the authenticating uses a digital certificate.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the exchange of media is a concurrent two way exchange.

26. (Currently amended) A system supporting the exchange of media in a communication network, the system comprising:

a first set top box circuitry, at a first home, having a first network address, the first set top box circuitry operable to communicate via a communication network with second set top box circuitry, at a second home, having a second network address;

a graphical user interface, at the first home, having at least one view comprising a graphical representation of at least one user defined media channel for the communication of media comprising audio and/or video, the at least one user defined media channel comprising a graphical representation of a user selected and scheduled sequence of media content comprising audio and/or video, the graphical user interface operable to allow a user to immediately establish and/or to schedule automatic establishment of one or more streaming media sessions; and

first software that maintains a user defined group of users having a plurality of members, wherein the user defined group of users is closed and secure with respect to others that are not

members of the user defined group of users, wherein a member within the user defined group of users can privately share media content comprising audio and/or video with one or more other members within the user defined group of users, wherein the first software receives a request, and responds by coordinating a transmission of media comprising audio and/or video, via the communication network, from at least one media peripheral at the first home to a television display at the second home for consumption in a real time manner; and

second software resident in a memory at the first home configured to enable a user at the first home to construct, at the first home, the at least one user defined media channel, the second software also configured to enable closed and secure communication of the at least one user defined media channel to other members within the user defined group of users that are at separate and distinct locations from the first home, in a peer-to-peer manner, from the first home.

27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the request identifies one of the first and second associated network addresses, and wherein the software responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network addresses to support exchange of the media from the at least media peripheral at the first home to the television display at the second home.

28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the media comprises one or more of a still image and/or data.

29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a

digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a video camera, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, a microphone, and/or a MP3 player.

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 28 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing digitized audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26 further comprising: at least one sensor for detecting a condition, at the first home; and the detection of the condition causing the initiation of a request to exchange media with the second home.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the at least one sensor comprises one or more of a door bell button, a passive infrared (PIR) motion detector, a microwave motion detector, a swimming pool water disturbance detector, a smoke detector, a fire detector, and/or other sensor suitable for the detection of conditions about a home.